Transformation in MTNL/BSNL

907. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL and BSNL are unable to match the state-of-the-art service provided by private players in wireless telecommunication, thereby fast losing the ground to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof with comparative figures for the last three years;

(c) whether while third generation mobile phones and innovative add-on services are the norm with the private telecom players, MTNL stilt dispenses lack-luster service and first generation CDMA phones to its 'Garuda' customers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to bring about attitudinal transformation in MTNL and BSNL so that their adoptability keeps pace with the technological trends?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

E-Governance common service centres in villages

908. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up e-governance common service centres in one lakh villages by next year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposal;

(c) the scope of services being planned to be offered through these centres; and

(d) whether these centres would have any adverse impact on employees of traditional Government offices situated in local levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) (a) and (b) Department of Information Technology (DIT) is working on a plan to establish

100,000 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Common Services Centres (CSCs) predominantly in the rural areas across the country by the year 2007. These CSCs would be promoted on a sustainable entrepreneur - based model supported by the Central and State Governments. For this purpose, DIT has prepared draft framework outlining policy, strategy and contours of financial support for rapid proliferation of CSCs. As per the framework, a National Level Service Agency (NLSA) has been selected to workout details of the CSCs scheme.

(c) CSCs would have the flexibility to offer a mix of services (both Government and non-Government including localized services) that may be needed by the local community.

(d) Government employees would be imparted training to cope-up with the new environment and as such no adverse impact on employees is contemplated.

Representations of private cellular operators

909. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private cellular operators have made several representations to Government against undue benefits including Access Deficit Charges (ADC) being given to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) whether these benefits including ADC being given to BSNL will end up in making 60 million odd mobile subscribers to subsidize telephony cost of 40 million odd BSNL subscribers;

(c) if so, the reasons for creating unlevelied playing field by favouring BSNL; and

(d) what steps are being teken to stop such benefits forthwith derived from other cellular operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The ADC is distributed over various types of calls, namely:

Fixed to Fixed, Fixed to WLL(M), Fixed to Cellular, WLL(M) to Fixed,